

From the Editors

As is often the case, this issue of *The Victorian Naturalist* carries reports of work on a range of species. The range in this instance is perhaps not as wide as it has been in other issues, in that there is nothing specifically on the plant kingdom. Further, it could be said there is a slight concentration on reptiles here, with two papers on skinks and one on a snake. Another trend in the papers presented here is that most of the objects of study are at the smaller end of the size range. So much so that, in the case of millipedes in south-western Victoria, a 5 mm scale needs to be inserted to indicate how small they are; and skinks can be photographed in the palm of one's hand. Balanced against these small creatures, the larger animals reported on in this issue are Eastern Brown Snake and Platypus.

In regard to the latter, papers reporting on research on one of Australia's iconic animal species are always welcome. This is a subject of both enduring value and interest, as evidenced by the publication of a new book by Tom Grant, a well-known researcher on Platypus. Much work has been done on Platypus, to which is added the paper published in this issue. Nonetheless, as one of the authors of the Platypus paper published here has written, in her review of Grant's book, 'an enormous amount remains to be learnt about this remarkable animal'. The same can be said perhaps for each of the other species, big and small, that are featured in this issue, something that serves to underline an important role of *The Victorian Naturalist*.

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